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**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION**

<http://fishandgame.lacountycommissions.info/>

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, B-50, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1431 Fax (213) 633-5102

To enrich lives through effective and caring service

December 17, 2013

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

12 December 17, 2013

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**FISH AND GAME PROPAGATION FUND GRANT AWARD
(THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Recommending approval to award grant funds from the Fish and Game Commission to the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM) to replace worn and/or lost tools used for ongoing restoration and re-vegetation efforts of creek channels.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

Approve the Fish and Game Propagation Fund Grant request in the amount of \$1,685 to the RCDSMM to replace worn and/or lost tools in order to continue the on-going restoration and re-vegetation efforts in lower Topanga Creek, Malibu Lagoon and Arroyo Sequit Creeks.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Invasive species, both plant and animal, compete with the native species for space and food resources in lower Topanga Creek, Malibu Lagoon and Arroyo Sequit Creeks.

Crayfish (native to Louisiana) eat the Creeks' native frog eggs, tadpoles and adults and young fish eggs. They also disturb the sediments increasing turbidity, which in turn increases water temperature and lowers the availability of dissolved oxygen. Euphorbia terracina (pepperweed) and Arundo donax can overtake acres of creek banks when not controlled. They are highly flammable and can change bank stability and hydrology, both of which impact fish and other aquatic native species.

The restoration and re-vegetation efforts in the creek channels rely upon volunteers coordinated by the RCDSMM and California Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks and Recreation). Since 2009, over 1,000 volunteers have participated in monthly events in lower Topanga State Park re-vegetating and removing invasive plants in a 12-acre floodplain following the restoration of the creek channel to increase migration opportunities for endangered southern steelhead trout.

Following the restoration of Malibu Lagoon in 2012, over 1,500 volunteers have helped with weekly planting and weeding. A major creek restoration project is planned for the summer of 2014 to remove an in-stream barrier in Arroyo Sequit Creek and replace it with a bridge to increase fish passage opportunities, while continuing to provide access for visitors at Leo Carrillo State Beach. Hundreds of student volunteers are regularly assisting with catching and removing invasive red swamp crayfish from Topanga and Malibu Creeks.

In the regular course of these events, tools get broken or lost. Since all of this work is conducted by volunteers, supervised by RCDSMM staff who also volunteer their time, RCDSMM rely on grants and donations to replace these important tools that are needed by the volunteers to accomplish the task of eradicating invasive plants and animals in targeted locations where native species are threatened.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Providing funds for this program is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goals No. 1 & 3 (Operational Effectiveness & Integrated Services Delivery). In addition to the restoration and re-vegetation efforts, the RCDSMM provide education programs and conduct research that assists in developing management and policy plans.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no impact on the General Fund. The approved expenditure will be charged to the Fish and Game Propagation Fund, which has sufficient funds to cover the cost.

The Los Angeles County Fish and Game Propagation Fund is financed from a percentage of penalty assessments collected relating to fish and game code violations in Los Angeles County.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Section et seq. 13100 of the Fish and Game Code establishes guidelines for the expenditure of fines levied for fish and game code violations. It includes enhancing fish and game activities including propagation, protection and restoration; supporting fish and wildlife projects; and furthering research and education in areas related to fish and wildlife.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

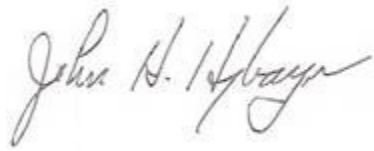
This Board action enhances the conservation and the propagation of fish and game, thus benefiting the County of Los Angeles and the State of California.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

12/17/2013

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John H. Hybarger".

JOHN H. HYBARGER

Chairman

JHH:bf

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

GRANT APPLICATION TITLE PAGE

TITLE OF PROJECT/PROGRAM Restoration Tools

NAME OF ORGANIZATION RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains
[As it appears on (501) (c) (3) IRS Letter]

ADDRESS P.O. Box 638

CITY Aqoura Hills STATE CA ZIP CODE 91376

TELEPHONE NUMBER 818/597-8627 FAX NUMBER 818/597-8630

AMOUNT REQUESTED \$1685

BOARD CHAIRPERSON Dennis Washburn

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Clark Stevens

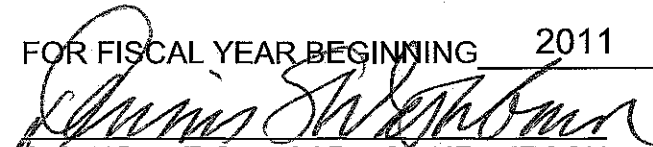
CONTACT PERSON Rosi Dagit

TITLE Senior Conservation Biologist

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S) ofc: 310/455-7528. cell: 310/488-6381

AUDITED TOTAL INCOME 636737 AUDITED TOTAL EXPENSES 608959

FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING 2011 AND ENDING 2012


SIGNATURE OF BOARD CHAIRPERSON

DATE

Note to Applicant: Please complete this title page and attach all grant application materials prior to submission.

One Page Project Summary

In order to continue on-going restoration and revegetation efforts in lower Topanga Creek, Malibu Lagoon and Arroyo Sequit Creeks, the RCDSMM is requesting funding to replace worn and/or lost tools. All of these restoration and revegetation efforts rely upon volunteers coordinated by the RCDSMM and CA Department of Parks and Recreation. Since 2009, we have had over 1,000 volunteers participate in monthly events in lower Topanga State Park revegetating, doing invasive plant removal in a 12 acre floodplain following the restoration of the creek channel to increase migration opportunities for endangered southern steelhead trout. Following the restoration of Malibu Lagoon in 2012, over 1,500 volunteers have helped with weekly planting and weeding. A major creek restoration project is planned for summer 2014 to remove an in-stream barrier in Arroyo Sequit Creek and replace it with a bridge to increase fish passage opportunities, while continuing to provide access for visitors at Leo Carrillo State Beach. Last but not least, hundreds of student volunteers are regularly assisting with catching and removing invasive red swamp crayfish from Topanga and Malibu Creeks.

In the regular course of these events, tools get broken or lost. Since all of this work is conducted by volunteers, supervised by RCDSMM staff who also volunteer their time, we rely on grants and donations to replace these important tools.

Background on Applicant's Organization

Purpose and goals:

The RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains has been serving our constituents for over 50 years, providing education programs, conducting research that assists in developing management and policy plans, and implementing on-the-ground endangered species and ecosystem restoration.

Brief summary of current activities:

Thus far in 2013, we have already supervised over 100 community volunteers, several college groups (UCLA brought 200 freshman to help weed and remove arundo in Sept.), and numerous elementary, middle and high school classes. Their work has focused on invasive species removal and planting native species during the winter months. Due to the low rainfall in the past 2 years, volunteers have also provided critical assistance in watering new plants and catching crayfish that compete with our native aquatic species.

Geographic area served:

The RCDSMM boundaries extend from Encino to Thousand Oaks, from the Chatswork Reservoir to the ocean, and Catalina Island. The equipment will be used at restoration sites throughout the Santa Monica Mountains.

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Major sources and dollar amounts of corporate, foundation and government support during current and past fiscal year:

We have had no major grants for this work, and have instead relied upon donations, most of which were under \$100. We hosted a fun-raiser in August 2012 which provided an important influx of support.

History of all grants received from the Los Angeles County Fish and Game Commission:

January 2012 Malibu Water Quality Probe Maintenance \$3,977

March 2012 Laptop for Wildlife Research \$2,500

March 2012 Microscopes for Marine Science Program \$2,730

February 2013 Underwater ultrasound DIDSON camera equipment \$2,000

Project Information

Statement of justification of need:

All of the restoration and revegetation work is supported by donations to the RCDSMM Watershed Restoration Fund. At this time, we have only 4 hoe/cultivators, 4 loppers and 4 crayfish nets remaining. All other tools have either broken or gone missing.

Statement of purpose and goals:

The purpose of these efforts is to utilize enthusiastic volunteers to assist in the on-going revegetation and restoration of numerous locations within the Santa Monica Mountains. Providing them with tools to accomplish the task is critical to their success. Our goal is to eradicate invasive plants and animals in targeted locations where native species are threatened.

Action plan to meet objectives:

The funds provided by this grant will support purchase of much needed replacement tools including hoe/cultivators, loppers, dip nets, twine and weights for catching crayfish. We anticipate having students removing crayfish weekly. Weed removal is on-going on a weekly basis, and installation of new natives will take place in the fall-winter.

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Statement of how the objectives advance the propagation and protection of fish and wildlife:

Invasive species, both plant and animal, compete with our native species for space and food resources. Crayfish (native to Louisiana) eat our native frog eggs, tadpoles and adults, fish eggs and young and have even been known to attack newts, which have a toxic skin. Additionally, they disturb the sediments increasing turbidity, which in turn increases water temperature and lowers the availability of dissolved oxygen. Euphorbia terracina (pepperweed) and Arundo donax can overtake acres of creek banks when not controlled. They are highly flammable and can change bank stability and hydrology, both of which impact fish and other aquatic native species.

Project budget and timetable:

All tools will be purchased upon receipt of funding.

24" loppers (20 at \$30@)	\$600
hoe/cultivators (40 at \$13@)	\$520
garden gloves (100 prs at \$2.50@)	\$250
dip nets (30 at \$7@)	\$210
sisal twine (3 rolls at \$7@)	\$ 21
weights (3 sets 100 at \$21@)	\$84
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$1,685

Sources of other support for project:

None available at this time.

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Current status of project:

Numerous volunteer events have been scheduled for 2013-2014. Presently we have 4 loppers, 4 hoe/cultivators and 4 dipnets remaining for use. Our volunteers will be much more effective with more tools!

Cash flow analysis of the expenditure of project funds:

All tools will be purchased upon receipt of funds.

Proposed method of evaluating results:

Extent of the invasive plant removal is mapped once a year, and area cleared per event is also documented. Revegetation results are based on number of native plants installed, as well as expansion of the existing natives into areas cleared of invasives.

The crayfish are counted, measured and sexed at each event. They are humanely euthanized by freezing, and then contributed to a local wildlife rehabilitation center to provide food for injured native wildlife.

Plans for funding on-going project (if applicable):

This grassroots effort has been and probably will continue to rely upon small donations and episodic grant funding. There are not many grant opportunities to fund such efforts.

Progress reports (bi-yearly or upon completion, whichever occurs first):

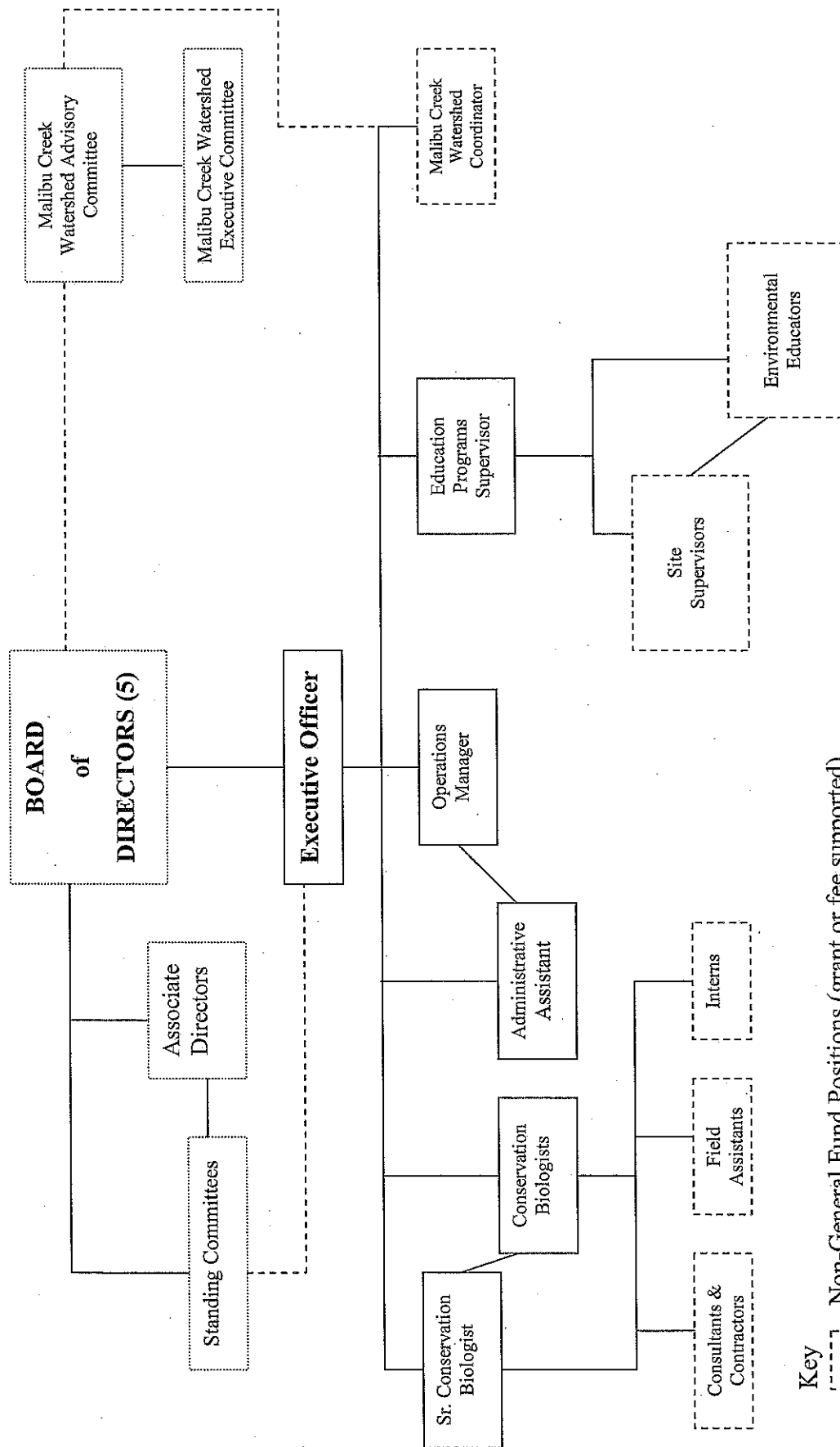
A progress report will be provided upon completion of purchase and will highlight the successes of our Fall 2013 and Winter 2014 volunteer efforts.

Please Attach the Following Supporting Documents:

- Description of Organizational Structure or Organizational Chart
- Copy of the Latest IRS Determination Letter of Tax Exempt Status under Section 501(c) (3)
- Most Recent Audited Financial Statement
- Most Recent IRS Form 990

RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

ORGANIZATION CHART



- Key**
- Non-General Fund Positions (grant or fee supported)
 - General Fund Staff Positions
 - Volunteer/Unpaid Positions
 - Indirect Reporting or Advisory



RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF THE
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

818.597.8627 | phone
818.597.8630 | fax
info@rcdsmm.org

30000 Mulholland Highway, Agoura Hills, CA 91301
Mail: PO Box 638, Agoura Hills, CA 91376-0638

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Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Clark Stevens

September 19, 2013

County of Los Angeles
Fish and Game Commission

Dear Commissioners,

In compliance with the request for supporting documents relevant to the fiscal status of the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica (RCDSMM), we provide the following information.

The RCDSMM, a subdivision of the State of California, is a local government special district organized under division 9 of the CA Public Resources Code.

Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 115 states that the gross income of a subdivision of a state is not taxable by the Federal government.

IRC Section 170(c)(1) states that contributions to subdivisions of a state are tax deductible as long as they are used for public purposes.

Therefore, the RCDSMM does not submit forms or pay federal income tax and contributions to the RCDSMM are tax deductible.

We appreciate the support of the Commission for our efforts to provide important resource management information that will help protect and preserve the Santa Monica Mountains and its wildlife.

Sincerely,

John Hendra
Operations Manager

Restoration Tool
Funding Request September 2013



Earth Day Restoration event in Lower Topanga State Park 2012
200 volunteers

Earth Day Euphorbia removal in Lower Topanga State Park 2010



Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies junior and senior bio students helped remove
invasive crayfish May
2013





Crayfish are measured and sexed so we can track reproduction patterns



Enjoying a morning in the creek and catching crayfish using different strategies!



All crayfish are humanely euthanized by freezing and contributed to the local wildlife rehabilitation center to feed injured wildlife.